

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 215700
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00
DLOS-09 OES-09 STR-07 XMB-02 /069 R

DRAFTED BY EB/TRA/ MA:R R MCKEON:LY
APPROVED BY EB/TRA/ MA:R K BANK
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT

SUBJECT:ALGERIAN INSURANCE PREMIUM ON OVERAGE VESSELS

REF: ROME 14907, ALGIERS 2364, STATE 197496

1. LYKES REPRESENTATIVES ARE CURIOUS AS TO WHY CAAR
(ALGERIAN NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY) IS ONLY NOW ENFORCING
AN INSURANCE PREMIUM SURCHARGE ON VESSELS OVER 15 YEARS OLD.
LYKES SUSPECTS THAT ALL CNAN SHIPS OVER 15 YEARS OLD HAVE
BEEN RECENTLY MOVED OFF OF ALGERIA-BOUND ROUTES AND INTO
CROSS TRADING. IF THIS IS TRUE, DISCRIMINATION WOULD NOT
LIKELY BE AT ISSUE. LYKES MANAGEMENT IS CONVINCED, HOWEVER,
THAT THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE SURCHARGE REGULATION, PAYABLE
BY THE CARGO RECEIVER, IS SOLELY DESIGNED TO STEER LUCRATIVE
BECHTEL TRADE FROM LYKES TO CNAN.

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2. DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT COUNTERVAILING MEASURES ARE NOT
APPROPRIATE WITHOUT CLEAR EVIDENCE OF DISCRIMINATION.
DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS THAT REPRESENTATION BE MADE TO GOA RE-
QUESTING THAT THEY CONSIDER EXEMPTING OVERAGE VESSELS WHICH
POSSESS CERTIFICATES FROM RECOGNIZED CLASSIFICATION SOCIE-
TIES FROM INSURANCE PREMIUM SURCHARGE REGULATIONS. ADDI-
TIONALLY, IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF INQUIRIES COULD BE

MADE CONCERNING THE REASON THAT THE LONG-STANDING REGULATION HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN ENFORCED.

FYI: SIMILAR SITUATIONS HAVE ARISEN IN SAUDI ARABIA AND IN NIGERIA. IN BOTH CASES, SHIPS OVER 15 YEARS OLD WERE BANNED FROM THE PORTS FOR SAFETY REASONS. SAUDI OFFICIALS WERE CONVINCED BY U.S. EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES TO AMEND THEIR REGULATIONS TO EXEMPT SHIPS CERTIFIED BY CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES. END FYI. CHRISTOPHER

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